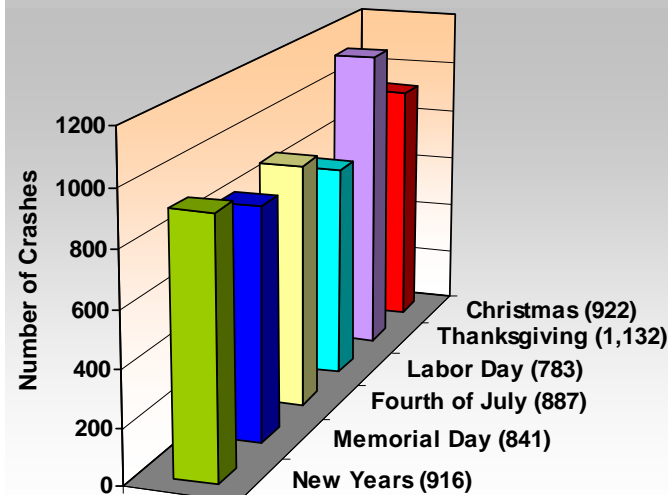


SEAT BELT STATISTICS

- Last year there were 913 fatalities on Kentucky Roadways.
- 65 percent of those people were NOT wearing a seat belt.
- Nationally, 43,443 were killed in traffic crashes.
- When worn correctly, seat belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent.
- One out of every five drivers will be involved in a traffic accident this year.
- Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.



HOLIDAY TRAFFIC CRASHES



The Car's Collision

The first collision is known as the car's collision, which causes the car to buckle and bend as it hits something and comes to an abrupt stop. This occurs in approximately one-tenth of a second. The crushing of the front end absorbs some of the force of the crash and cushions the rest of the car. As a result, the passenger compartment comes to a more gradual stop than the front of the car.

The Human Collision

The second collision occurs as the car's occupants hit some part of the vehicle. At the moment of impact, *unbelted* occupants are still traveling at the vehicle's original speed. Just after the vehicle comes to a complete stop, these *unbelted* occupants will slam into the steering wheel, the windshield, or some other part of the vehicle interior. This is the human collision.

So, Why Safety Belts?

During a crash, properly fastened safety belts distribute the forces of rapid deceleration over larger and stronger parts of the person's body, such as the chest, hips and shoulders.

Kentucky State Police
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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 695-6300
www.kentuckystatepolice.org

Seat Belts Save Lives



Buckle Up Kentucky It's the Law and It's Enforced

Provided By:



The Difference Between Heaven & Earth Is A Seat Belt

Written By:

Regina Hennequant, Radcliff, Kentucky

Hello, my name is 'Boone's mom', which is what I have proudly answered to for the last eighteen years. I am sharing this story with you in hope that you will never experience the heartache my family has. We have learned that the difference between Heaven and Earth - is a seat belt.

Imagine receiving this phone call... "there was a single car accident...he was only going thirty-five miles per hour...the car is off the road...hit a few fence posts...appears to be minor damage to the car... the EMT's are checking him out now..."

I immediately went to the scene of the accident which was less than two miles from our home. Within seconds of arriving, I found myself running to my son who is partially hanging out of the passenger door. He is breathing - I see his chest rise and fall. I'm told he is responding to commands. I'm held back from him, while the EMT's are tending to him. I call to him, "Mama's here, I love you. Hang in there Boone." I hear him say "Mom" right as they are moving him from his side to the stabilizing back board.

Seventeen hours later I find myself walking out of his hospital room to tell family, friends and co-workers what the doctor has just told with me..."His chest area is slightly bruised; he has no other

injuries to his body... except his head. Boone...your brother, grandson, friend, nephew, cousin...my son...is clinically brain dead." Most wept at the news; others stood in shock and disbelief.

Because Boone did not have his seat belt on, this minor collision threw him hard enough across the seat to kill him. The impact from hitting the passenger door arm rest caused severe head trauma. He would have walked away if he had his seat belt on. This five-second lack of judgment to snap his seat belt is the reason my son died.

Those that loved and cared for him, now have to settle for merely visiting his grave site. To have the memory of his last word... "Mom" ringing in my ears forever is heart-breaking.

The next time you get into your car, whether as the driver or passenger - don't risk changing the lives of your family and all those that love you.

PLEASE BUCKLE UP!

*In loving memory of
Daniel "Boone" Redmon
(1989-2006)*



**Last year 913 people lost
their lives on Kentucky
Roadways, of those 65%
were NOT wearing
seat belts**

Highway Safety Facts

- On Kentucky Highways, a crash occurs every 4 minutes.
- Motor Vehicle crashes are now the leading cause of death for 15-to-20 year-olds in America.
- 62 percent of teenage passenger vehicle occupants killed in fatal crashes were not wearing seat belts.
- Most crash fatalities occur within 25 miles of home or at speeds of less than 40 miles per hour.
- Kentuckians alone pay over \$3 billion each year for car crash victims (in the form of higher premiums, medical costs, property damages and loss of productivity).
- Kentucky has the third lowest rate of seat belt usage among all the states.
- One out of every five drivers will be involved in a traffic crash this year.
- Research has shown that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent.

Kentucky's Child Safety Seat Law

KRS 189.125(3) states that any driver of a motor vehicle, when transporting a child of forty (40) inches in height or less in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, and highways of this state, shall have the child properly secured in a child restraint system of a type meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards.